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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/569,151	02/21/2006	Marguerite E. O'Neill	2003UR030	1695

7590 09/06/2007  
Gerald D. Malpass, Jr.  
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EXAMINER
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BEACH, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3671

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/06/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/569,151	<b>Applicant(s)</b> O'NEILL, MARGUERITE E.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Thomas A. Beach	<b>Art Unit</b> 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lima 6,139,644. Lima shows a piggable flowline-riser system comprising: a) a Y joint 16 having a stem, a first branch 10, and a second branch 18; b) a riser in fluid communication with said stem of said Y joint; e) a looped flowline in fluid communication with at least one production well, wherein said looped flowline has a first end and a second end, said first end in fluid communication with said first branch of said Y joint~ and said second end in fluid communication with said second branch of said Y joint; and d) a gas injection line 5 connected to and in fluid communication with said riser 2 (fig 2).

As concerns claim 2, Lima shows a first shut-off valve 9 disposed in said first branch of said Y joint and a second shut-off valve disposed in said second branch of said Y joint.

As concerns claim 3, Lima shows comprising: f) a pigging fluid injection line connected to and in fluid communication with said first branch of said Y joint, wherein upon selective actuation of said shut- off valves, said gas injection line 5 and said

pigging fluid injection line, a pig 5 inserted into said riser is transported through said looped flowline and returned into said riser.

As concerns claim 3, Lima shows e) a first shut-off means disposed in said first branch of said Y joint and a second shut-off means disposed in said second branch of said Y joint (fig 2).

As concerns claim 4, Lima shows a means of gas injection connected to and in fluid communication with said riser.

As concerns claim 5, Lima shows g) a pigging fluid injection means connected to and in fluid communication with said first branch of said Y joint, wherein upon selective actuation of said shut-off means, said means of gas injection and said pigging fluid injection means, 5 a pig inserted into said riser is transported through said looped flowline and returned into said riser (fig 2).

As concerns claim 6, Lima shows method for pigging a flowline-riser system, said flowline-riser system including a Y joint having a stem in fluid communication with a riser and two branches, each of said branches in fluid communication with one of the ends of a flowline loop, said flowline loop being in fluid communication with at least one subsea 5 production well, said riser having a gas injection line connected to and in fluid communication with said riser, said method comprising: a) ceasing hydrocarbon production from said at least one subsea production well, b) injecting a pig into said riser, c) passing said pig from said riser through said Y joint and into said looped flowline, d) returning said pig from said looped flowline into said Y joint, and e) passing said pig from said Y joint into said riser.

As concerns claim 7, Lima shows pig is injected into said riser from a host production facility (fig 1).

As concerns claim 8, Lima shows pig passes through said Y joint by selective activation of a pair of shut-off valves 9 disposed within said Y joint.

As concerns claim 9, Lima shows said pig passes through said Y joint by selective activation of a pair of shut-off means 9 disposed within said Y joint.

As concerns claim 10, Lima shows pig is aided through said looped flowline by injecting pigging injection fluid into said Y joint (fig 2).

As concerns claim 11, Lima shows injecting lift gas into said riser prior to injecting 5 said pig into said riser.

As concerns claim 12-15, Lima shows injecting lift means into said riser prior to injecting said pig into said riser.

As concerns claim 15, Lima shows hydrocarbon production is continued from said production well after said pig passes said production well.

As concerns claim 16, Lima shows producing hydrocarbon resources from said at least one subsea production well.

As concerns claim 17, Lima shows transporting said produced hydrocarbon resources to land (fig 2).

### ***Conclusion***

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Beach whose telephone number is 571.272.6988. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Will can be reached on 571.272.6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas A. Beach

August 19, 2007

**THOMAS A. BEACH**  
Primary Examiner  
Group 3600